Introduction of Crop Insurance Scheme

*56. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce Crop Insurance Scheme covering most backward districts;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that some of the schemes such as a market intervention scheme for potatoes, a scheme to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras in each district etc. proposed by the Ministry have been vetoed by the Finance Ministry; and

(d) if so, the grounds on which the aforesaid schemes have not been approved by the Finance Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISH-RA): (a) and (b) A proposal for the introduction of an Experimental Corp Insurance Scheme (ECIS) covering loanee as well as non-loanee small and marginal farmers in 24 selected districts of 8 States to be implemented from Rabi 1997-98 has been approved by the Government of India. Under the ECIS all the loanee as well as non loanee small and marginal farmers growing cereals, pulses and oilseeds would be covered. The entire amount of insurance charges payable by the small and marginal farmers will be borne by the Central and the State Governments. The pattern of sharing of the financial liability including 100% subsidy on account of insurance charges between the Central and the State Governments would be in the ratio of 8:2. The scheme will be implemented, as far as possible, over a lower unit area preferably a Gram Panchayat subject to the availability of required yield data.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Agriculture has made suveral proposals for accelerating the growth of agriculture in the country particularly in the Eastern and North Eastern States. These include a proposal for implementing Market Intervention Scheme for crops such as potatoes, with a more liberal assistance from the Central Government to the financially weaker North-Eastern Region. A proposal in this regard has been submitted to the Ministry of Finance.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras. At present there are only 54 KVKs in the entire Eastern and North-Eastern Region. Keeping in view the vast geographical area covered and the agro-economic diversity of Eastern Region, Ministry of Agriculture has proposed to establish 12 additional KVKs with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 25 crores during the current year.

Konark Temple

*57. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Konark Temple in Orissa is likely to be dismantled to check damage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to repair the temple under the World Heritage list of UNESCO?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Some investigations are necessary for determining future conservation of the monument for which a grant of US $ 39,000 has been approved by UNESCO. The investigations will, inter alia, include stabilization of one of the existing holes in the 'Jagamohana' of the Temple to enable visual inspection and assessment within of the structural conservation required.

Vacation of leased lands by Oil Companies

*58. SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the grounds and the circumstances under which the oil Companies vacate the